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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,751	09/18/2001	Yeun-Jong Chou	55814US004	8875
32692	7590	01/21/2004	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			RACHUBA, MAURINA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	
DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004 12				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/954,751	CHOU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	M Rachuba	3723

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 16 December 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attached.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: ____.

Claim(s) objected to: ____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1, 3-13.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ____.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: ____

M. Rachuba
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3723

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 16, 2003 are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments are drawn to differences between the prior art's methods of making an abrasive brush, and not the products. Applicant's arguments directed to the method of making the product will not be addressed, as the claims are directed to the product. Applicant's arguments, beginning page 4 of paper not 11, state that the products of Barber, Jr. et al and Johson et al would be completely different in may respects.

MPEP 2142 states in part:

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Johnson et al disclose an abrasive brush comprising abrasive bristles which are integrally molded with the base of the brush, the bristles having abrasive interspersed throughout. Johnson et al do not teach that the abrasive is not interspersed but coated onto the outer surface of the bristle. Barber, Jr. et al teach in an abrasive brush, providing preformed bristles which are coated with abrasive. Barber, Jr. et al teaches that abrasive-filled polymeric filaments will take a set shape, and unless the filaments of the tool recover, the tool becomes soft and loses it's effectiveness, column 1, lines 40-47, and that a bristle which is coated with abrasive has a higher initial bending modulus, a more constant bending modulus as a function of time, temperature, humidity and

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chemical environment, and higher tensile strength than an abrasive filled thermoplastic filament, column 2, lines 42-47. There is a reasonable expectation of success, in that Barber, Jr. et al coats plastic filaments. And the prior art combination teaches each and every claim limitation, as set forth in the final rejection. That applicant's method of making the product may vary in some process steps from the prior art is moot, as applicant has not provided evidence that one of ordinary skill would not find it obvious, given the teachings of Barber, Jr. et al to coat abrasive on the bristles, rather than intersperse abrasive throughout the bristle.

Any inquiry concerning the content of this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Rachuba whose telephone number is (703) 308-1361. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Any inquiries concerning other than the content of this and previous communications, such as missing references or filed papers not acknowledged, should be directed to the Customer Service Representative, Tech Center 3700, (703) 306-5648.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail, can be reached on (703) 308-2687.
In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.